

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1-16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer-implemented~~ method of performing morphological analysis on a natural language text string ~~in natural language processing using a computer having a memory~~, the method comprising:

selecting whether or not to decompose a decomposable complex word in response to a request from ~~[[an]]~~ a natural language processing application that utilizes a morphological analysis result;

~~inputting~~ receiving the natural language text string to be processed, wherein the text string is in an agglutinative language and comprises more than one ~~compound complex~~ word, wherein each ~~compound complex~~ word comprises a linguistic unit having a semantic meaning;

decomposing the received text string into tokens and storing the tokens in a work area of the memory;

when it is selected not to decompose a decomposable complex word, determining whether each token is decomposable;

if a token is not decomposable, registering the non-decomposable token on a token list stored in a given area of the memory;

generating token strings based on the token list and storing the token strings in the work area of the memory; ~~and~~

selecting the optimum token ~~string~~ strings from the generated token strings based

on the token list; and

outputting the selected optimum token strings to the natural language processing application for further processing.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein a master dictionary is referenced when decomposing the text string into tokens.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein a grammar dictionary is referenced when selecting the optimum token string on the basis of the token list.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 18, wherein whether a token is decomposable is determined by determining whether a decomposable flag for the token in the master dictionary is set.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the agglutinative language comprises Japanese.

22-24. (Cancelled).

25. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the natural language processing application including at least one of a text retrieval processing application, a machine translation processing application, and a text mining processing application.

26. (New) A computer system for performing morphological analysis on a natural language text string, the computer system comprising:

a memory; and

a processor configured to:

select whether or not to decompose a decomposable complex word in response to a request from a natural language processing application that utilizes a morphological analysis result;

receive the natural language text string to be processed, wherein the text string is in an agglutinative language and comprises more than one complex word, wherein each complex word comprises a linguistic unit having a semantic meaning;

decompose the received text string into tokens and storing the tokens in a work area of the memory;

when it is selected not to decompose a decomposable complex word, determine whether each token is decomposable;

if a token is not decomposable, register the non-decomposable token on a token list stored in a given area of the memory;

generate token strings based on the token list and storing the token strings in the work area of the memory;

select optimum token strings from the generated token strings; and

output the selected optimum token strings to the natural language processing application for further processing.

27. (New) A computer-readable medium, having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a computer for causing the computer to perform the steps of:

selecting whether or not to decompose a decomposable complex word in response to a request from a natural language processing application that utilizes a morphological analysis result;

receiving the natural language text string to be processed, wherein the text string is

in an agglutinative language and comprises more than one complex word, wherein each complex word comprises a linguistic unit having a semantic meaning;

decomposing the received text string into tokens and storing the tokens in a work area of a memory of the computer;

when it is selected not to decompose a decomposable complex word, determining whether each token is decomposable;

if a token is not decomposable, registering the non-decomposable token on a token list stored in a given area of the memory;

generating token strings based on the token list and storing the token strings in the work area of the memory;

selecting optimum token strings from the generated token strings; and

outputting the selected optimum token strings to the natural language processing application for further processing.